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closer to the people. He shows how each tiniest community lives under the surveillance and by the favor of the omnipresent gendarme. With 510 salaries to pay, with an exorbitant system of licenses, with police restriction set upon all business and pleasure, the Tahitian finds life too expensive to come within his means. Hopeless of the future he settles down into apathy for the present, a victim of tyranny from above and sapped by vices from below, the Tahitian finds it cheaper to die, and being a Polynesian he is quite content to die and be out of it. Mr. Lebeau spent his six weeks to good purpose. His book is a trifle, yet it is valuable as a corrective of the visionary and poetical accounts of Tahiti which men of greater note have seen fit to present as the story of a dying race.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

**Eastern Pacific Lands: Tahiti and the Marquesas Islands.** By F. W. Christian. 269 pp., 64 plates and index. Robert Scott, London, 1910. 7s. 6d.

Somewhat more than this was to be expected of the author of a really valuable study of the Caroline Islands. The inclusion in this volume of the Earl of Ranfurly's mediocre report on the annexation of the Cook Islands seems like padding. Mr. Christian's own narrative is the trivial record of brief visits to the two groups noted in the title. Tahiti is so well reported that even the best record of a short sojourn can add nothing to our knowledge. The Marquesas, on the other hand, have been so scantily studied that it is tantalizing to find that an observer of such long experience in the South Sea as Mr. Christian has proved so little observant. The volume will be a necessity to such as specialize in the geographical province of Oceanica, but it will add little in return for the space which it will occupy. Much of the work is devoted to comment on Stevenson and Herman Melville; the author's estimate of these predecessors scarcely makes up for the paucity of his own observations in the field.

In two appendices Mr. Christian has conveniently assembled topically the more valuable results of his investigation. He expresses himself somewhat positively in favor of the theory of an Aryan origin of the Polynesians and arranges several sets of linguistic data as confirmatory of that opinion. He accedes as well to the opinion of other students that the designation of the Malayo-Polynesian family is false. Yet it is noticed that in this material brought together to establish Aryan origin the author has set forth resemblances of the Marquesan speech with Japanese, Malayan and even Semitic; and such remote resemblances are scarcely to be considered as proof of any one source in particular, for these are surely remote from the Aryan.

The illustrations are of uneven value. Several reproduce originals which are now almost inaccessible. The best are such as represent artifacts of the Marquesas which exhibit variants upon more familiar types.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

**Through Tropic Seas.** By Frank Burnett. With an introduction by Bram Thompson. xii, 157 pp. and 68 illustrations. Francis Griffiths, London, 1910. 7s. 6d.

Mr. Burnett bought a little schooner and with his family went on a cruise among the South Sea Islands. He had visited them before and this book is the result of his extended observations of the islands and their inhabitants. It is not a commonplace record of travel. The author tersely describes what he saw. He minces no words in dealing with various aspects of the natives and indulges